# ##5 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 MAR 2006 GERMAN TRANSLATION AID 10/573818

Es bedeutet: (It means:)

X: Druckschriften, die Neuheit oder Erfindungshöhe allein in Frage stellen

(Publications, which question novelty or just obviousness)

Y: Druckschriften, die die Erfindungshöhe züsammen mit anderen Druckschriften in Frage stellen

(Publications which, together with other publications, question obviousness)

A: Allgemein zum Stand der Technik, technologischer Hintergrund

(General state of the art, technological background)

O: Nicht-schriftliche Offenbarung, z. B. ein in einer nachveröffentlichten Druckschrift abgedruckter Vortrag, der vor dem Anmelde- oder Prioritätstag öffentilich gehalten wurde

(Non-written disclosure, for example, a printed post publication of a lecture which was publicly made before the filing date or priority date)

P: Im Prioritätsintervall veröffentichte Druckschriften

(Publications publicized in a priority interval)

T: Nachveröffentlichte, nicht kollidierende Druckschriften, die die Theorie der angemeldeten Erfindung betreffen und für ein besseres Verständnis der angemeldeten Erfindung nützlich sein können bzw. zeigen daß der angemeldeten Erfindung zugrunde liegende Gedankengänge oder Sachverhalte falsch sein könnten

(Post publications, not anticipating publications, which refer to the theory of the filed invention and which refer could be useful for a better understanding or, as the case may be, which could show that reasoning or facts of the filed invention are incorrect)

E: Ältere Anmeldungen gemäß §3 Abs.2 PatG (bei Recherchen nach § 43 PatG); ältere Patentanmeldungen oder ältere Gebrauchsmuster gemäß § 15 GbmG (bei Recherchen nach § 7 GbmG)

(Older applications under § 3 section 2 PatG (inquiries under § 43 PatG); older patent applications ir patents under § 15 GbmG (inquiries under § 7 GmbG))

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nr:

D: Druckschriften, die bereits in der Patentmeldung genannt sind (Publications, which are cited in the patent application)

L: Aus besonderen Gründen genannte Druckschriften, z. B. zum Veröffentlichungstag einer Entgegenhaltung oder bei Zweifeln an der Priorität.

(Publications which are cited for a particular reason, for example, relative to the publication date of a reference or cast doubt on the priority)

Veröff: Veröffentlichungstag einer Druckschrift im Prioritätsintervall

(Publication date of a publication in a priority interval)

Nicht recherchiert, da allgemein bekannter Stand der Technik,

oder nicht recherchierbar

(Not searched, because it is known state of the art, or cannot be

searched)

=: Druckschriften, die auf dieselbe Ursprungsanmeldung

zuzrückgehen ("Patentfamilien"), oder auf die sich Referate

oder Abstracts beziehen.

(Publications, which refer to the same original application

("patent family"), or which are referred to in reviews or

abstracts.)

"-": Nichts ermittelt

(Nothing discovered)

Hier sind die Ansprüche unter Zuordnung zu den in Spalte 2 genannten relevanten Stellen angegeben.

(The claims are stated herein which refer to the relevant positions recited in column 2.)

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Seite

(page)

Zeile

(line)

Abbildungen

(Drawings)

Spalte

(Column)

Absatz

(Paragraph)

Zumsammenfassung (Abstract of Disclosure)

#### Re Box V:

### **CLOSEST PRIOR ART:**

"DE 197 27 986 A1" discloses an apparatus for detection of contact erosion on switching contacts, as claimed in the precharacterizing clause of patent claim 1.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from this in particular by the following characterizing features:

"The intensity of the light which is injected into the at least one optical waveguide decreases as the number of contact erosion particles which are produced by the contact erosion in the electrical switching device increases."

The **problem** which is intended to be solved is as follows:

To develop a further apparatus for monitoring of the wear of switching contacts in electrical switching devices.

## **INVENTIVE STEP:**

In the document "DE 197 27 986 A1", the light which is produced by an arc that occurs during a switching process is used as a substitute criterion. Optical waveguides (LWL) are preferably provided for this purpose, in order to detect the light that occurs, in a quenching chamber, in particular in the area of adjacent arcing plates - between them. The detected light is then supplied, preferably by means of photodiodes, to the evaluation unit, and is evaluated by it, is passed to the display means and a corresponding wear value or remaining life value is displayed.

In consequence, the subject matter of claim 1 meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(3), when the switching contact pair is part of claim 1.

Claims 2-11 are dependent on claim 1 and thus likewise meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(3).